

The largest river in the eastern part of the United States is the Ohio, the second largest tributary of the Mississippi. The uttermost fountain of this river is in Pocahontas county, near the foot of Mace Knob, one of the very highest peaks in the central Appalachian Range. The country was discovered by degrees, and the pioneers were puzzled by the careless manner in which a set of mountains were thrown around. They had gotten used to orderly mountains that lay in parallel rows from northeast to southwest, ridged up like a potato patch. But when they crossed the Allegheny they found all sorts of spurs, dips and angles, and the mountains where there was any direction predominating seemed to lie from the south east to the northwest, or at right angles with the tame mountains on the white man's side. This condition was peculiar to West Virginia, and the geologists tell us that the reason was that long before the continent of America reared itself above the troubled waters, that a little island, West Virginia, endured the storms of winter and the heat of summer for some few million of years. A scientist will concede a million of years more willingly than a school marm will concede five minutes for recess.

So West Virginia got eroded and made mountains that way, and got all its nice coal, oil and gas ready for the spenders.

These strange mountains were bigger than the other. And the long years of erosion had made the land rich, and the forests overawed the pioneer, and he went but a little way fearfully, and settled because the land was rich. But they did get the rivers mixed up. So they called the big river the Ohio to the forks at Pittsburgh, and then they named it the Monongahela, to another fork, and then called it Tygart's Valley River to its uttermost fountain, and there it abutted on another river so close that a single step takes you from one to the other, and that is the Cheat River that joins with the Monongahela at Point Marion, and being the most eastern branch of the westward flowing river and fully as long, or rather reaching farther than the Tygart's Valley, it might be considered the uttermost fountain for it goes the Tygart's River a few steps, or at least one step, or one span, farther than the Mississippi.

Cheat river loses its identity in a way after it gets in the tangle of mountains and divides up into so called forks, but the Shavers Fork is so much longer and greater that it overcomes the others by many miles. Shavers Fork is one of the show streams of the state and it had more spruce on it and all that the word implies than any other West Virginia stream. It was also the stream that runs the top of the world being set high above its sister the Greenbrier on one side and Tygart's Valley river on the other. The Staunton and Parkersburg Turnpike crosses all three rivers in twenty miles. At Durbin the Greenbrier is crossed at 3000 feet; Shavers Fork is crossed at 3600 feet; and Tygart's Valley river is crossed at 2200 feet.

The other day I got to figuring out the way that Shavers Fork got its name. Also Shavers Mountain. And Shavers Run. I knew in a general way that the Shaver that they were named for was the ancestor of my friend C. L. Shaver, of Fairmont, whose maxim is silence. But I was not able to go back into the dim and distant past and visualize the life and fate of the Shaver whose name will last as long as these waters run or these hills end.

But given a start, I was able to identify the pioneer, and see in my mind's eye his tragic life in these mountains.

Shavers Mountain is a continuation of Back Alleghany Mountain to the north. North of the Staunton and Parkersburg Turnpike it is Shavers Mountain. It is the mountain on the west in sight from the train windows between Durbin and Glad. At Glad it is the mountain that the tunnel runs through. And it is one of the biggest, most upstanding of all the mountains.

Shavers Mountain walls in Shavers Fork of Cheat on the east side, looking across at Cheat Mountain on the other side of that stream.

Shavers Run is a sizable stream starting in the Cheat Mountain and flowing west to Tygart's Valley river coming into the river at Valley Bend. The tourist will be able to identify this run by noting that it comes in north of the large town of Mill Creek, just opposite to where a road turns to the left to the Rich mountain side. It was on this road that Peter Shaver settled about the year 1772, and built a homestead, and where he was killed by the Indian in April, 1781. He had been an Indian ranger for years during the Revolutionary War, and was killed in front of his house in the last year of the war, and in the very last raid of Indians that far east.

Withers, the authority, leaves out more names than he records. This is explained by the fact that Withers wrote that work from the great mass of material accumulated by William Hacker and William Powers, two Indian fighters, who set down dates, names and occurrences. Withers as a college graduate and lawyer of Clarksburg, undertook the contract of making a book from this material for Joseph Israel, printer, and it is said that failure to pay him, caused Withers to bring his work to as hasty a conclusion as might be compatible with producing a book that had some appearance of being finished.

Withers says of the Tygart's Valley massacre of 1781, in effect that the Roneys, Daughertys, Hornbecks, Buffingtons, and Many Others were killed. The populous country between Huttonsville and Elkins was ravaged. The houses nearly all burned. And all the inhabitants gone, being either

killed, captured, or driven east over the mountains. Being the most eastern of the north-western settlements and being driven east would account for failure to list the names of the killed. The Indian rangers could not tell who were killed or who were fleeing for safety. All that they knew was that the rich valley was deserted. There is enough evidence however to lead one to believe that this was the greatest massacre of West Virginia, not excepting Clendenin's and Fort Seybert.

A large body of Indians appeared in the country in April, 1781, earlier than they were expected. The winter months were considered safe from them and the pioneers lived in their clearings, thinking to go into the stockades a few weeks later.

There were important settlements in the Cheat River country in Tucker county. Like all other pioneers on the Western Waters they had improved valuable land without title papers, and the Virginia legislature had passed a law providing for validating all claims to land made good by actual settlement prior to January 1, 1778. A strong party of farmers had gone to Clarksburg to prove their settlement claims and were returning when they reached the Tygart's Valley River, perhaps near Phillippi, they ran into a great body of Indians and a battle ensued. John Meener, Daniel Cameron, and a man by the name of Cooper, were killed and the others escaped back to Clarksburg and brought word of the early appearance of the Indians.

It afterwards appeared that the Indian army moved towards Parsons, Tucker county, and were discovered by James Brown and Stephen Radloff. It is a reasonable conjecture that these men were scouts on the old War Road, now called Seneca Trail. Withers says that this caused the Indians to go over Leading Creek into the Tygart's Valley where they destroyed the whole settlement. What is more reasonable to suppose is that they struck the War Path and moved south to the settlement.

Leading Creek comes into Tygart's Valley River about one mile below Elkins. Reaching this settlement it appears that the Indians divided and crept one by one to the cabins of the settlers. It looks like they separated one evening, and gave twenty-four hours for the warriors to appear at the appointed places and struck about dusk the next evening.

Peter Shaver lived at the mouth of Shavers Run. He had but recently returned from the war. His family consisted of three sons and wife, and an old man, probable his wife's father. They had spent the day visiting and towards night went home. Peter Shaver took a near way. His wife and the old man rode the same horse. When near home the body of Peter Shaver was seen lying across the path. His wife put her hand to her face to hide the sight and exclaimed that her husband had been killed. The old man tried to quiet her by saying that it was a log across the path, but it was soon seen that he had been killed and scalped a few minutes before. The rest of the family escaped to a neighbor and from there fled the country.

Within a few months Mrs. Shaver gave birth to a child, a son, and on his face was a large red birth-mark like the mark of a hand. It was always attributed to the presence of his mother at the tragic finding of her husband dead and scalped. This son was Francis Shaver, prominent in the country life of his time, the great-grandfather of Clem Shaver.

The details of the killing in Tygart's Valley are lost. But never since the plague demanded of Egypt that between dusk and dawn, one life would be required of every house hold, has there been anything quite like it. There was a fort at Beverly, Fort Westfall, but there were people killed that dreadful night within gunshot of its walls. Notably a Mrs. Baker who refused to go to the fort on account of cooking a corn pone and other things in the cabin needing attention.

The Indian army assembled on the second night and set out north-west to their towns in Ohio. They had made their kill. They had to get back across the Ohio river. Two men, Jonathan Buffington and Ben-Hornbeck, who had escaped, carried the news to Friend's Fort and Wilson's Fort. Col. Wilson raised an army immediately and went to Tygart's Valley and found it without a living settler. When we remember that three years after, Randolph County had enough inhabitants to form a county, and that the most populous part of the county was driven out in a single night, we can get a glimpse of the extent of the raid upon it by the Indians.

Wilson's company knowing that the Indians had prisoners, followed them for two days. It would appear that the Indians tried to pass out through the woods lying between Clarksburg and Jane Lew, the latter place then known as West's Fort on West Fork river. Wilson not coming up with them at the end of the second day's march a council of war was held, and it was suggested to the company that with the Indians out in such numbers, that their own homes were not protected and that the men would better go home and man the forts. This was decided upon by a majority of

the company. On that same night, spies reported to Nutter's Fort, that the Indians were camped at the mouth of Indian Creek on West Fork. When the men who were fired upon at Valley River reported the Indians to the Clarksburg forts, spies were immediately sent out and it was the result of their work that located them at the mouth of Indian Creek. Col. Lowther, in command of Nutter's Fort took a company of men and came to the place in the nighttime and hid in a ravine until morning. At the break of day, Mrs. Alexander Roney, a prisoner, rose and replenished the camp fire, and just at that moment the white men fired on the sleeping camp, killing seven Indians and one prisoner, young Roney, a son of Alexander Roney, who had been killed two nights before.

As I read it, the party of Indians found must have been but a part of the Indian army. The attacking party numbered seventeen men from Nutter's Fort and the booty secured and sold netted about seventy dollars each.

Captain Bull a noted Indian chief was killed at that time. He was the chief whose family was massacred by the whites on the waters of Little Kanawha near where the present village of Bulltown stands in Braxton County. Jesse Hughes, the great Indian fighter was present. He found Captain Bull still alive, and recognized him. Hughes seized Captain Bull and dragged him through the camp fire and killed him. He then skinned the dead chief for material to restore his moccasins, and when he got back to the fort threw the moccasins into his mother's lap, for her to see the way in which they were mended.

The Clem Shaver line of descent on the Shaver side is as follows: Paul Shaver settled in Augusta County sometime before the formation of that county and died on South Branch of the Potomac, in 1772, owning a tract of land at the mouth of what was then called Paul Shaver's Run. He had four sons: George, John, Peter, and Paul.

Peter Shaver married Sarah Riffe. He served as an Indian ranger and spy in the Revolution. Was killed in April, 1781, on the occasion of the Tygart's Valley massacre, invasion of Shawnees and Delaware's. Sons: John, James, Jacob, and Francis. Francis Shaver married Phoebe Hall. Eleven children: Susanna, Sarah, John, James, Jacob, Hezekiah, Francis Riffe, George W., Mary Eleanor, and Edward.

James Shaver married Elizabeth Campbell. Eight children, one of whom was John Riffe Shaver. John Riffe Shaver married Elizabeth Campbell, eight children, the eldest being Hon. C. L. Shaver, of Fairmont.

The story of the Shaver family is well knit into the history of the nation and state. Steadfast and true are the qualities of such families who have kept the home fires burning and who have built up in a few generations the greatest nation that the world has ever seen. As soon as the pioneer breed had time to breathe, efforts were made to record the heroic life and times of the conquerors of the wilderness. Much was lost by neglect, and though the day is somewhat late, yet we are in a better position to honor their memories by recounting their exploits, than any generation that will come after us.

The immigrant, Paul Shaver, had a son Paul Shaver, born on the South Branch of the Potomac in the year 1759. This has been denied, and other branches of the Shaver family have tried to claim him, but there is not the slightest doubt in my mind but that he is the Paul Shaver of Paul Shaver's Run, Pendleton County. He made his declaration for a pension in the year 1832 in Lewis County. He was in the army that marched on Vincennes, in 1779, under Col. G. E. Clark. For a full and sympathetic account of this great campaign, see Winston Churchill's, "The Crossing."

Paul Shaver first served in 1778, at the age of seventeen under Jacob Warwick. That whole season he watched the war road in Randolph County. During that year he detected Indians on three different occasions.

In the year 1777, he served as a ranger under Captain Stuart, of Greenbrier County, first at West's Fort, at Jane Lew, then at Westfall's Fort, at Beverly, and then at Warwick's Fort at Green Bank. He was discharged in November.

In the spring of 1778, he migrated to Kentucky where Louisville now stands. Was drafted in July of that year to go on a tour of three months into Illinois County under Captain Kincaid, under G. E. Clark. Did not succeed in bringing the Indians to a fight.

In the winter of 1778 or spring of 1779, Col. Clark again conceived the notion of marching into the Illinois county as it was then called, and Paul Shaver volunteered for six months. He was at the taking Kas-

kaskias and was left there with his old commander Captain Andrew Kincaid. He volunteered and in all spent eighteen months on this campaign, and returned with a bad wound in his leg received at Andersonstown, which had not yet healed, though more than fifty years after. There is another record of this same Paul Shaver serving as a ranger and spy in the year 1770, the year of first settlement in Tygart's Valley. I think this must have been 1772. It has been questioned on account of the youth of Paul Shaver. But whether he was 11 years old, or 13 years, I do not consider that young for that kind of service in pioneer times. Ask the first boy scout that you meet.

This is about all the space I have to knit together the widely scattered strands of the story of Shavers Fork. There are a tremendous possibilities in the story. But I want to mention one other thing, to put the historians on the trail.

The fact that the Indians destroyed the Tygart's Valley settlements as early in the year as April, and that they had come from the upper Ohio country, caused suspicion to be directed against the Moravian Indians. These were the Indians who had embraced Christianity and who trying to live at peace with both whites and reds received nothing but hostility from both, and commencing with the Tygart's Valley massacre events led up by successive stages to a raid on them, and an execution of every one of these Indians as the result of a hasty military trail, in the spring of 1782.

P. S. The tradition says that Peter Shaver's father Paul Shaver was present when the dead body of Peter Shaver was found, killed and scalped by the Indians. This I was compelled to reject for the reason that the court records show that Paul Shaver Sr. died in 1772 and letters of administration were granted to Elizabeth Shaver, widow. So I thought at first it might be the wife's brother. But it has come to me in the watches of the night, that it was young Paul Shaver who was on the horse with Peter Shaver's wife. Paul was 22 years old and was disabled by a wound in the leg received the year before in the Vincennes campaign and when the word old was applied to him, it was when he was an old man. He never recovered from the wound. It was still an open wound in 1832. It is natural to suppose that it was this disabled brother who was present and not Paul Shaver, Sr.

Notice To Creditors
All persons having claims against the estate of Mrs. Lou Collins, deceased, will please present the same forthwith, duly proven in the manner provided by law, to the undersigned for payment.
F. R. HILL, Adm.
of Mrs. Lou Collins, deceased.

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EXECUTOR'S NOTICE
All persons having accounts against the estate of the late Agnes M. Rose, are hereby notified to present their accounts proven according to law to the undersigned executor at his office at Bartow, W. Va. All persons owing said estate will please prepare to settle at once.
This 8th day of October, 1925.
B. B. BEARD, Executor
Estate of Agnes M. Rose, deceased.

NOTICE
There has been at my place on Stamping Creek since Sept. 1, 1925, two 2-year old steers, red with white faces. Owner can have them by proving they are his property and paying cost of advertising and pasture.
Mrs. D. M. Rose, Millpoint, W. Va. adv. \$1. paid.

FOR SALE
Ringlet Rock Cockerels; a few single comb and rose comb red cockerels, \$2 at farm; \$2.50 delivered at Marlinton; 1 yearling Ringlet at \$5; 2 yearling Red S. C. and B. C. at \$3 each. Bourhan Red turkeys for breeding purposes. 25 Poland China and Berkshire pigs, 4 to 6 weeks, \$4.50 each; 2 for \$8.
Mrs. A. S. Gay
Onoto, W. Va.

ESTRAY NOTICE
One black horse, with one eye, will weigh about 1200 pounds, has been in Marlinton since about October 12. Owner can have him by paying cost of keep and advertisement.
adv \$1. Henry Simmons.

FOR SALE—One brown horse, nine years old, weight 1700 pounds, good worker. Price \$65.00. Reason for selling, have too many horses.
G. G. Thompson, Millpoint, W. Va.

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A. P. EDGAR, Attorney-at-Law, Marlinton, W. Va. Counts: Pocahontas and adjoining counties and the Supreme Court of Appeals.
F. RAYMOND HILL, Attorney-at-Law, Marlinton, W. Va. Will practice in the courts of Pocahontas and Greenbrier counties, and in the Supreme Court of Appeals at West Virginia.
ANDREW PRICE, Attorney-at-Law, Marlinton, W. Va.
H. G. McNEEL, Attorney-at-Law, Marlinton, W. Va. Will practice in the courts of Pocahontas and adjoining counties, and in the Court of Appeals of the state of West Virginia.

L. M. McCLINTIC, Attorney-at-Law, Marlinton, W. Va. Will practice in the courts of Pocahontas and adjoining counties and in the Supreme Court of Appeals.

P. T. WARD, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW, Marlinton, W. Va.

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